

# Proposer Information Session

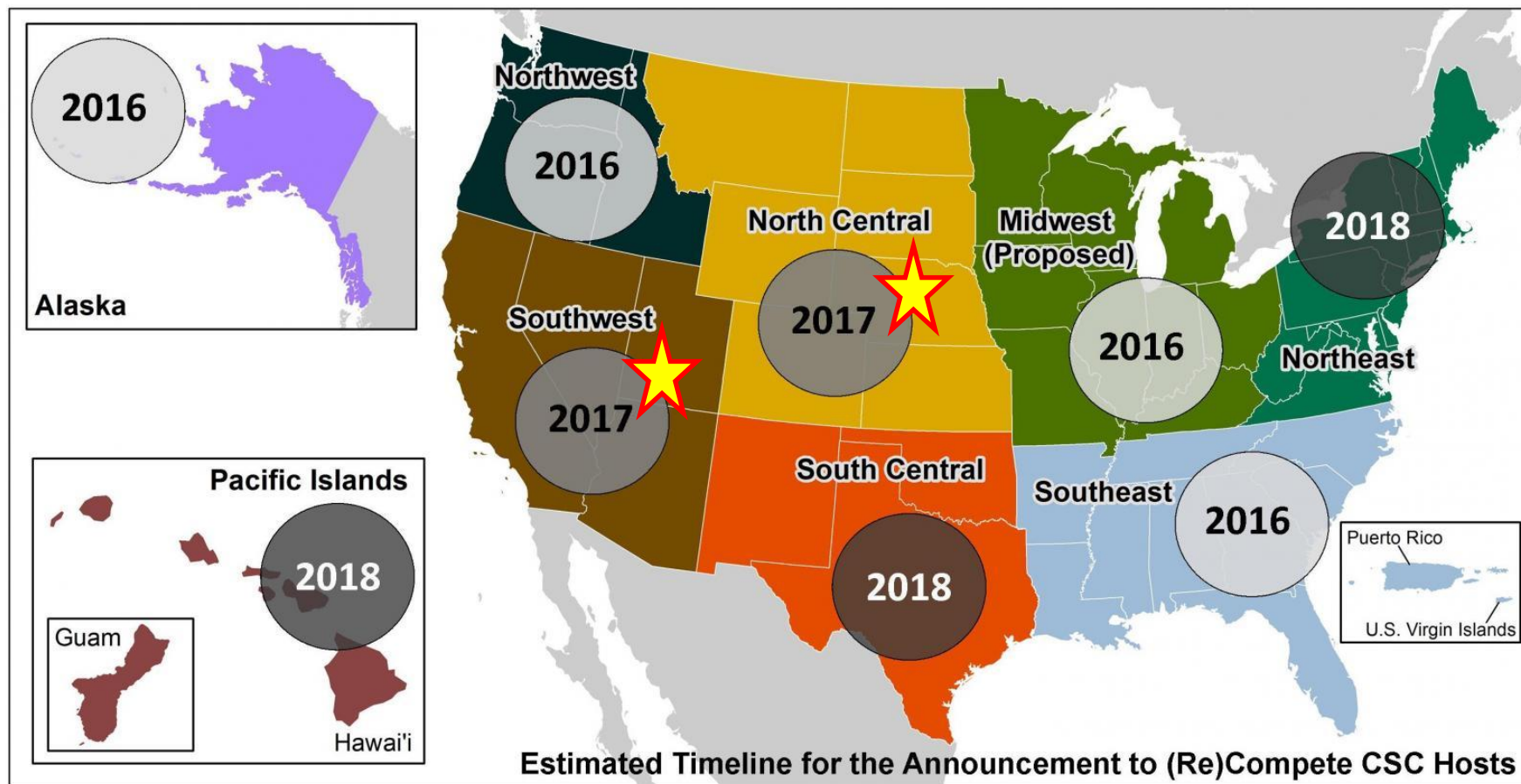
## Climate Science Center Hosting Solicitation North Central and Southwest CSC Regions

June 28, 2017

Teleconference: 703-648-4848

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# CSC Regions



*The CSCs work across boundaries to address shared ecosystems, watersheds, and landscapes*

# The Basics

- Which CSCs are being (re)competed?  
**North Central, Southwest**
- When are proposals due:  
**September 7, 2017 by 3:00 PM EDT**
- Where is the RFP (“Program Announcement” or “Funding Opportunity Announcement”):  
**Grants.gov, G17AS00066**

# The Basics

- Who can apply
  - States, non-profit, local government, tribal, academic institutions
  - USGS entities – NOT eligible
  - Federal agencies – may not lead but can be partners
- What is the decision timeline\*\*
  - Decisions expected before **March 1, 2018**
  - Agreements expected to take effect **July 1, 2018**

\*\* Decision timelines may adjust due to a variety of factors

## For questions, contact:

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Information on the process and requirements:

<https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/csc-recompetition>

# FAQs: Funding

## *Are in-kind contributions required?*

No. In the past, universities have provided “matching funds” in various ways, including reduced indirect cost rates, return of indirect cost funds to the CSC, funding of associated faculty lines, and the like, but this is not a requirement. In-kind contributions can, however, affect the long-term capabilities of the center and will be considered as available resources during the review process.

## *What are all the sources of funding for a CSC?*

CSC activities are supported by three funding streams:

- 1) The hosting agreement (i.e. the ones now being competed). Host institutions receive funding for the activities described in their proposal, and may transfer funds to consortium partners. These funds generally support the involvement of key faculty, the training of graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers.
- 2) The annual research funding available to the USGS CSC Director. S/he uses a mix of request for proposals (RFP) and directed funding to support research and other science and communications activities. These funds may be provided to a host institution, which may thereafter transfer funds to a consortium partner or other research collaborator, or they may be transferred to a USGS entity.
- 3) USGS (and in several cases the BIA) provide salaries and related support for Federal employees at the CSC.

### ***Who makes funding decisions?***

For the hosting agreements, proposals will be evaluated by a Federal panel and an award will be made by USGS to a single Host Institution. The selected Host Institution may provide funding to partner institutions from this award to support hosting activities in accordance with its proposal and the final award terms. Host Institutions are also eligible for research funding provided non-competitively. Decisions on research grant funds are made by the USGS CSC Director, in response to proposals or as part of co-development. Research awards are provided to the Host Institution, which may provide subawards to consortium partners.

### ***Are universities or organizations that are not named in the consortium eligible for funding?***

No. In order to receive funding from the Host organization, they must be named in the consortium.

### ***Should we provide an expected funding request for one year or five years?***

5 years, with each year's funding subject to the availability of funds and adequate progress on implementing the terms of the award.

### ***Is there a funding ceiling?***

Proposals should not request funds totaling greater than \$4,500,000 for five years, or an average of \$900,000 per year.

### ***Can a single institution be on two proposals?***

Yes

### ***Can funding go to federal agencies?***

Yes, but as noted above, Federal entities may not be Host Institutions. In cases where a Federal entity is a partner and the proposal includes funding for that Federal entity, USGS would provide the funds directly to the relevant agency interagency agreements, rather than being included in funding provided under the cooperative agreement with the Host Institution.



# FAQs: Network Function

## *What relationship is envisioned between consortium leaders, Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SAC), and USGS CSC leaders?*

We envision a close and collaborative partnership between the university director, USGS director, and SAC on the strategic needs and directions for the CSC science program.

The university director should:

1. Be familiar with the full suite of activities underway within the Host Institution, consortium partners, and other CSC-funded investigators.
2. Play a leadership role in the strategic planning and implementation of this portfolio, in conjunction with the CSC Director and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
3. Encourage and facilitate the engagement of faculty and staff from across the institution (and CSC consortium, where appropriate) to increase awareness of, and where possible, increase contribution to, the goals of the CSC.
4. Facilitate the development of the CSC as a known and desired research and training partner across the involved institution(s).
5. Serve as an advocate for CSC needs with Host Institution management

### ***What are the expectations for the role of consortium partners?***

We would like to see a specific role for each consortium partner in proposals. Specific expertise or experience should be considered when explaining the proposed role of the consortium partner. The reason why each proposed partner was chosen should be clear to US.

### ***What are the expectations for staff? How do they interact with the university?***

Most Climate Science Centers have a director, and deputy director or research coordinator; some have research scientists or a communications expert, and some will have a BIA Climate Science Tribal Liaison. USGS believes close interaction between university-funded faculty, students and other staff is very beneficial to the overall functioning of a CSC. Co-located space for researchers, post-docs, and other CSC staff members is preferred.

### ***Can an institution outside a region be part of a consortium?***

Yes

### ***How do CSCs interface with USGS Centers?***

CSCs should understand the expertise and skills provided by USGS Centers. Working with USGS Centers and leveraging the expertise and skills is encouraged.